



## INTIMATIONS.

NOW READY. 1888.  
THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY  
FOR 1888.  
With which is incorporated  
THE CHINA DIRECTORY.  
(TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL ISSUE),  
COMPLETE, WITH APPENDIX, PLANS, &c., &c.,  
ROYAL 8vo, pp. 1,300.... \$5.00.  
SMALL EDITION, Royal 8vo, pp. 816.... \$3.00.

THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY  
has been thoroughly revised and brought up to date, and is again much increased in bulk.

WE HAVE RECEIVED A FURTHER  
SUPPLY OF XMAS GOODS, VIZ.—  
ROSE PRALINES,  
VANILLA PRALINES,  
BUTTER SCOTCH,  
EVERTON TOFFEE,  
MUSCATELS,  
PIGS,  
JORDAN ALMONDS,  
CHOCOLATE,  
CHOCOLATE CREAMS,  
CHOCOLATE MÉNIER,  
FRENCH, ENGLISH, AND AMERICAN  
SWEETS,  
RIMMEL'S FLORAL,  
AND  
ROSE WATER, CRACKERS, &c., &c.  
A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED,  
HONGKONG DISPENSARY.  
Hongkong, 5th December, 1888.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications on Editorial matters should be addressed to "The Editor," and those on business to "The Manager," and not to individuals by name.

Correspondents are requested to forward their name and address with communications addressed to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good and correct information.

All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.

Advertisements and Subscriptions which are not ordered for a fixed period will be continued until countermanded.

Orders for extra copies of the *Daily Press* should be sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication. After that hour the supply is limited.

TELEPHONE No. 12.

## BIRTHS.

On the 8th December, 1888, at Norman Cottage, Hongkong, the wife of ARTHUR STEWART, of Hongkong, died, aged 22 years.

On the 8th December, 1888, at 7, Macon Terrace, Hongkong, the wife of EDWARD ROBINSON, Barrister-at-law, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 8th Inst., at St. John's Cathedral, by the Rev. W. Jennings, M.A., Colonial Chaplain, assisted by the Rev. A. G. Goldsmith, M.A., of St. Peter's Church, the Rev. G. H. D. Cheshire, of the Downs of Arlington, to EDITH ANN, second daughter of C. J. Bateman, of the Hongkong Public School.

On the 8th Inst., in the Chapel Royal, Savoy, by the Rev. Henry White, M.A., Chaplain of the Queen and Chaplain in Ordinary to the Queen, THOMAS RICHARD SMITH HUMPHREYS, of Hongkong, to EDWARD THOMAS BASTON, of Wellington-street, St. Mary Abbots, London.

On the 7th Inst., at St. Mary Abbots, Kensington, by the Rev. M. Fletcher, D.D., CHASHER WALTER LEWIS, of Paddington, to MARY, daughter of the Rev. Charles Richards, of Shanghai, to MABEL JESSE, youngest daughter of Mrs. M. Tibbs, of Gwendy-wood, West Kensington, W.

DEATH.

On Wednesday, 5th instant, JAMES MADISON SWEENEY, of Brooklyn, N.Y., in the 22nd year of his life.

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The delivery of the English mail was begun at 7 a.m. yesterday.

We have received from Messrs. Norrups and Co. a historical calendar issued by that firm.

We have acknowledged receipt of the Sep- tember number of the *Journal of the China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society*.

The Kowloon Hotel will be opened to-day, when as will be seen from the advertisement, all visitors will be made welcome as guests.

The P. M. steamer *City of Syros*, with mail, from San Francisco to the 17th ultimo, has arrived at Yokohama and will sail for this port to-day.

Mr. L. Possecker has taken charge of the Consulate for Austria-Hungary, vice Mr. St. Michaelis, hitherto Acting Consul-General.

Boxing Day. The Volunteers will have their practice at Kowloon, and after 12th Surgeon Cantlie will put the Ambulance Corps through their drill.

China's circus continues to be well patronised every night. From the advertisements in another column it will be seen that there will be a change of programme to-night, also that the price of admission have been reduced.

At a meeting of the Committee appointed for the formation of the Chinese Zoological Gardens at Shanghai it was decided to proceed with the formation of the company with a capital of Tels 150,000 in shares of Tels 100 each.

On the motion of the Attorney General (Hon. L. C. Mallay), Mr. Arthur E. Boddy was yesterday admitted by the Supreme Court to practise as a solicitor in this colony. Mr. Boddy is a son of the late senior partner in the firm of Boddy and Davidaon, solicitors, Singapore. He joined the office of Mr. F. W. Webber.

Two lots of grave land at Macau Gap were sold yesterday by Mr. C. H. Black, Assistant Engineer of the Public Works Department. Rural building lot No. 69 realised \$10 above the upset price, \$165, or 10 cents per foot. Rural building lot No. 70 sold for \$2,400, being \$32 above the upset price, and giving a rate of 114 cents per foot.

The following are the Orders of the Day for this afternoon's meeting of the Legislative Council:

1.—Financial Minutes  
2.—First reading of a Bill to amend the Reformation School Ordinance, 1882.  
3.—Bill to amend the Merchant Shipping Ordinance Amendment Ordinance, 1882.  
4.—Second reading of the Bill to amend the Powers of Magistrates.  
5.—Committee on the Bill to amend Ordinance 6 of 1887.

The *Argus* says:—The trade and commerce of China is being developed considerably, and the Chinese are turning to their Banks to open new Agencies in Hongkong. We heard that the last Calcutta steamer *Simsa* brought out gentlemen on behalf of the well known Agre Bank, with the object of starting an Agency here immediately. We have also heard from a gentleman of undoubted veracity, that from letters he has recently received from China, the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank purposes opening an Agency here in the course of a short time. Who will be right, after this, that there is no field for competition of sorts, in Jurnau?

The *N. C. Daily News* translates the following from the *Shaw-poo*—Last month a person petitioned the Viceroy of Canton for leave to build the river shore from Tung-ha-ki to Shih-ki, reclaiming a breadth of 200 feet, on which to build godowns, jetties, and wharfs, and to allow the public to pass hereafter from the people. The sum of \$900,000 was the amount of the petition. The Viceroy directed the Aiyu-shang Tung, who had to make out that there were no such demands, to give a move for the repeal of the restriction Acts, not to be received ungraciously in San Francisco. It would command strength at the East if there were any indications of retaliation by China. If there were any talk of sending the American missionaries home, the Chinese would be right to demand the repeal of the restriction Acts, not to be received ungraciously in San Francisco. It would command strength at the East if there were any indications of retaliation by China.

The Singapore papers record the death of European child there from hydrocephalus. The child was the 2nd infant hydrocephalic in and death took place the following day. The *Straits Times* says:—Up to former days, there had been no disease to appear to have been unknown in Singapore, and its presence is traced to a number of dogs imported here by the Captain of a steamer at that period. This inevitable result followed then, the lamest of all. So that every year has had its record of deaths among the Europeans, and the Republicans, who bid fair to be in a majority in the next Congress, may think they paid it when they assented to the measures of exclusion which were passed to secure to the Irish and Germans a monopoly of our labour market.

Here we touch what is really the crucial point in the dispute. Constitutionally the popular voice has nothing to say in the appointment of Lord SALISBURY, but unless his Lordship's policy met with the popular approval he would find it impossible to carry on the Government. So in the case of an appointment to a Colonial Governorship it might have been expected that the Colonial Office would have taken the precaution to ascertain informally the feeling of the colony so as to guard against making an objectionable appointment. There seems, from the telegrams in the Australian papers, to have been a singular unanimity of the London Press in condemning the want of tact displayed on this occasion by Lord KNEWSTROP-Queensland, as usual with the colonies when any difference of opinion with the home Government arises, has been somewhat bumptious, but it may be urged in extenuation that the colonists consider they are fighting for an important principle. Baron BONNAR, in the House of Commons on the 15th November, in reply to Mr. CHILDESS, said that "South Australia had been informed, similarly to Queensland, that although the Imperial Government were anxious to consult the Colonies on all subjects in which they were interested, it was impossible to do so in the appointment of Governor." If the Sovereign attempted to keep a Minister in power in defiance of the popular will with a trial of strength between Crown and people would soon take place, and if the Crown attempts to force on the colonies objectionable Governors a serious demand for separation will not be long in making itself heard. Constitutionally the right of appointment to the office rests solely with the Crown, as the appointment of Ministers does in England, but it is a right, which, if it is to be preserved, must be exercised with such tact and consideration as not to raise the question of its existence. There is, no doubt, great force in Lord KNEWSTROP's contention that the Governor should not be the creature of a party, but to ascertain before appointing a man to the office that he was not objectionable to the colony would in no way compromise his independence. The Colonial Office, having brought about this unfortunate dispute, has had to retire from its position and cancel the appointment of Sir HENRY BLAKE, now rendering to elucidate what ought to have been conceded from the first. The incident is regrettable, because it has undoubtedly strengthened the bands of the Separatist party and has established a precedent, which in form as well as in fact derogates from the prerogatives of the Crown. Had the right of appointment to the Colonial Government been exercised judiciously it would in all probability not have been seriously disputed for many years to come, if ever.

The *N. C. Daily News* says:—The Tsung-hi Yamen's resources of day and absolutely unequalled, and quite beyond any powers that Sir John Walsham may possess to baffle. When Mr. A. Little, of Peking, was summoned to the Yamen, he was told by the British Consul that the permit for the Kuling to ascend the river to Chungking was all ready, and that if he went up to Ichang, he would probably find it waiting for him there, as there was only one small point unselected which would not involve any material delay. Mr. Little has gone up the river, and the Kuling is ready to start. But at Haikou he is informed by the British Consul there that the Yamen's resources are not equal to the Tsung-hi Yamen to send an official to confer with Mr. Gregory, the British dummy representative at Ichang, to draw up rules for the regulation of the steamer's progress. These rules, when drawn up—and the Tsung-hi Yamen must have learned of its steamer at the idea of Mr. Gregory's own self that the two countries involved in the trial—are to be approved by the Hongkong Vice-Admiral and his colleague of Szechuan. The Rose will be his between the Rose and the Korublome, and it is very hard to spot the probable victors. However, provided Hongkong is well and his men pull up to form he should be just able to pull the tail out of the fire. His men scale a few pounds lighter than their opponents, and this should tell slightly in their favour. The race will be between the Rose and the Korublome, and it is very easy for the Imperials who row in the Starships. The Ladies' Fours (four-ways) will fetch out four boats the Rose (A. Duer), Rose (Stroke, E. B. Shepherd), and Korublome (Stroke, E. B. Shepherd), and Kowloon (Stroke, E. B. Shepherd), and the two boats which should be the most equal, the Kowloon and the Korublome, will be the last to cross. 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THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IN AMERICA.  
London, 12th November.  
The Republican party has now a majority of four in the United States Senate.  
SENOR CANOVAS MOVED.

London, 12th November.

Senor Canovas was mobbed in Madrid yesterday, by a number of university students and Radicals. He declared that the demonstration was directed not so much against himself personally as against the monarchy.

[Senor Canovas del Castillo is a distinguished Spanish statesman and author, and has been several times Prime Minister, although he has not held office for some years past.]

ROYAL BETROTHAL.

London, 12th November.  
Princess Alexandra, the daughter of the King of Greece (born 1870) has been betrothed to the Grand Duke Paul, youngest brother of the Emperor of Russia.

A RUSSIAN LOAN.

London, 12th November.  
It is stated that an Anglo-Russian syndicate has agreed to lend a Russian Government loan of £25,000,000, bearing 4 per cent interest, the minimum to be paid annually.

THE GERMAN IN EAST AFRICA.

London, 12th November.  
It is expected that Prince Henry of Prussia (brother of the present Emperor of Germany) will be placed in command of the German squadron which is to be sent to Zanzibar.

The German East African Company propose to raise troops in the Dutch East Indies to suppress the native rebellion.

GERMANY AND AFRICA.

London, 13th November.  
The semi-official *Nord Deutsche Zeitung*, published at Berlin, accuses the French Cabinet of inciting war between Germany and France, because M. Lecocq (French Minister of Public Instruction) journal, *Le Rappel*, has advised the creation of a regiment of Alsacians.

INTERMISSION IN THE CONVENT.

London, 13th November.  
The International Trade Union Congress concluded its sittings yesterday. The British unions represented at the congress evinced great suspicion of the schemes brought forward by the foreign delegates for the organization of labour.

STATE EMIGRATION.

London, 13th November.  
The Board of Guardians at Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, and other cities, have petitioned Parliament to establish a national system of State migration. The Right Hon. W. H. Smith, referring to the matter in the House of Commons last night, said a committee to inquire into the question of State colonization would be appointed shortly.

THE PARLIAMENTARY TIMES' COMMISSION.

London, 13th November.  
Sir James Hammerton, a member of the Parnell Commission, has received a menacing letter from Charles Russell, counsel for the Parnellites, states that he has received several similar letters.

Further evidence in support of the charges made by the Times was taken before the commission to-day, the witness being two ex-Moonlighters and members of the National League who swore that they had joined in with the secret organization to shoot landlords. The landlord had also described shop belonging to farmers who were members of the League, and had been quite ready to come forward if ordered to do so. Sir Charles Russell, in cross-examination, tried to show that the witnesses were Fenians, but they declared that the members of the National League and the Fenians were identical. One of the witnesses swore that a secret society had compelled him to swear loyalty to the League.

London, 13th November.

Sir E. H. Webster, Attorney-General, charged Edward Harrington, M.P., with committing contempt of court by publishing an article in *The Kerry Sentinel*, charging the Parnell v. Times Commission with partiality. The case was adjourned.

LONDON, 22nd November.

The Parnell Commission has fined Mr. T. Harrington, M.P., £200 for contempt of court.

The Land League is appealing to America for funds for the defence of the Fenianites.

LONDON, 26th November.  
It is estimated that the expenses of *The Times* in the Parnell action will reach £100,000. The Irish subscription towards a similar fund for defending Parnell's expenses have reached £20,000.

DEATH OF SIR RICHARD BAGGALLY.

London, 26th November.  
The death is announced of the Right Hon. Sir Richard Baggally, in his 73rd year. He had held a seat in the House of Commons, was Solicitor-General in 1863 (when he received the honour of Knighthood), and again in 1874, and in the latter year was appointed Attorney-General. His judicial services were of great value. In 1874, he was appointed a Lord Justice of the Court of Criminal Appeal, and he held the office of Lord Justice for ten years, when he resigned in consequence of the state of his health.

ENFORCING THE CRIMES ACT.

London, 14th November.  
Mr. J. D. Slesher, M.P., for East Kerry, has been sentenced to one month's imprisonment for abusing the police.

THE ARMED REBELLION.

London, 14th November.  
Isha Khan, the leader of the recent rebellion in Afghanistan, has re-entered Turkistan, and the number of his adherents is augmenting daily.

THE NEW BABIT DISASTER.

London, 14th November.  
Sir Saul Samuel, A.P.M. for New South Wales, has invited Professor J. W. Axe, of the Royal Veterinary College, Camden Town, to come to his residence which is now decimating the rabbits on the Marquis of Cholmondeley's estate in the Bronx.

THE OATHS BILL.

London, 14th November.  
*The Oaths Bill* was read a second time in the House of Lords last night, Lord Salisbury objecting. Among the supporters of the bill was the Bishop of Carlisle.

THE COTTON ACT.

London, 14th November.  
Speaking in the French Chamber of Deputies last night, M. Goblet, Minister for Foreign Affairs, stated that the European situation was such as to require every vigilance on the part of France, but that the country was strong enough not to fear any provocation.

LIABILITY OF DIRECTORS.

London, 14th November.  
The Roman Catholic Bishops in England have assured the Pope that they are indignant at the penal laws enforced in Italy against the clergy, and will advocate the restoration of the temporal power of the Papacy.

THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNOR.

London, 14th November.  
The Earl of Onslow, the newly-appointed Governor of New Zealand, will sail for Australia on the 21st November.

SUICIDE OF AN MP.

London, 14th November.  
Mr. Jasper D. Pyne, M.P., for the Western Division of Waterford, was drawn at Tally-ho. It is stated that he was a suicide.

PROSECUTION OF MRS. WEDDE.

London, 15th November.  
Mrs. Wedde, who used Brixton and others for conspiracy, but was defeated, is now to be prosecuted with her witnesses for conspiracy and perjury.

AUSTRIA AND RUSSIA.

The Austrian Emperor refuses to meet the Czar until he withdraws the Russian troops from the Austrian frontier.

IMPERIAL FEDERATION.

The Irish Nonconformists have given a banquet to Lord Salisbury and Hartington, at which Lord Salisbury ridiculed the idea of imperial federation.

LONDON, 22nd November.

A formal banquet which was tendered to the departing Ambassador in London (J. Russell Lowell), it is stated that Imperial Federation was a dream, but that nevertheless the cohesion of the English-speaking races would decide the destinies of the world.

SERIOUS ILLNESS OF JOHN BRIGHT.

London, 16th November.  
The health of the Rt. Hon. John Bright is reported to be in a critical state.

JOHN BRIGHT IS SICKING.

THE GOVERNORSHIP OF NEWFOUNDLAND.

Sir John Gorst has refused the Governorship of Newfoundland.

THE RELATIONS BETWEEN ENGLAND AND THE UNITED STATES.

Lord Randolph Churchill, at a meeting at Paddington, deprecated the idea of a rupture with America, and advocated the restriction of

the drink traffic, and also of the restriction of the employment of pauper immigrants in America.

THE NOMINATION OF GOVERNOR.

London, 16th November.

The French Canadians are agitating to secure a voice in the nomination of their Governor.

MARRIAGE OF MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain married.

THE "TITANIC" LITTLE CASE.

The cost of the "Titanic" little action with Hosney amounted to £3,000.

NEWS OF STANLEY.

London, 16th November.

A letter has been received from Jamison, April 1st, in which he stated that H. M. Stanley was then safe.

LORD ONslow'S SUCCESSION.

Balfour-Burleigh succeeds Lord Onslow on the board of the Admiralty.

THE WHITE PASHA.

The White Pasha has won another victory in the Sudan.

SAKVILLE-WEST RETURNS TO WASHINGTON.

The Republicans carried a vote by a majority of four, for the return of Sir L. S. Sakville-West, British Minister at Washington.

THE RIVAL TELEGRAPH COMPANIES.

London, 16th November.

The Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company have been writing to the papers discrediting the Pacific scheme. They state that the aggregate only amounts to forty-one days' interruption since 1880, and that they have increased the speed of their service.

The meeting of the promoters of the Pacific scheme was attended by two hundred of the leading bankers, merchants, &c.

The Earl of Winchelsea was in the chair. The meeting was very enthusiastic.

Mr. Donald Smith of Canada, myself, and Mr. Dix of Detroit, Blackwood & Co. were present.

"Our original scheme is discontent with the E. A. and C. T. Co., they pledged themselves to support the Pacific route via Hawaii, Fanning Island, Samoa, Fiji, and New Zealand." It was stated that they intended to construct the line regardless of guarantees, but that if England and the colonies guaranteed the Government and other traffic to the amount of £25,000 per annum for 25 years, that they would fit the bill at £4 per word.

INCREASE OF THE GERMAN FORCES.

London, 22nd November.

Germany is preparing to increase her forces.

ALLEGED BREACH OF PRIVILEGE.

London, 27th November.

An attempt to arrest Irish members in the lobby of the House of Commons has caused great excitement. Mr. E. G. Smith, disclaimed having threatened the arrested. A committee of the House has been appointed to inquire into it.

MADAME BOULANGER AS BISHOP.

London, 28th November.

Madame Boulangier is applying for a divorce from her husband.

THE OPENING OF THE REICHSTAG.

The Emperor William's speech at the opening of the Reichstag was of a pacific character. In it he thanked England for her assistance at Zanzibar.

THE POPE THREATENS TO LEAVE.

The Pope again threatens that he will leave.

O'CONNOR AND TERNER.

O'Connor won his sculling match against Terner with ease, and proposes to proceed to Australia.

M. WILSON AND THE FRENCH CONFEDERATION.

London, 28th November.

French troops, having been called out to disperse discharged Italian workmen at Blida, were compelled to fire, killing and wounding four.

THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES.

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# MAIL SUPPLEMENT TO THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS.

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12TH, 1888.

## PROTECTION IN FRENCH INDO-CHINA.

The address delivered by M. RICHARD at the opening of the Session of the Colonial Council at Saigon the other day supplies an instructive résumé of the position of affairs in the French possessions in Indo-China. For outsiders the most interesting point in the address is the reference to the disastrous experiment in protection which has been made. It is not often that the example of the ill-effects of protection are so clearly exemplified as they have been in Cochinchina. The industry protected was not local, but, industrially speaking, foreign, i.e., French. France, having secured the colony, followed the example set by England in her Eastern colonies, and constituted Saigon a free port. Under this régime of freedom commerce rapidly advanced, and the colony became an important market for European goods. The market having been thus established, the French manufacturers desired to secure a monopoly of it for themselves, and the general tariff of France was imposed. The result was what might have been expected. Trade rapidly declined, and a cry was soon raised for a reversal of the ill-advised policy. The Chamber of Commerce has asked for the total abrogation of the tariff; and the hope held out by M. RICHARD is confined to its modification; the general tariff may be repealed, but differential duties will still be imposed on goods which can be produced in France, Asiatic goods and articles not produced in France being admitted free. The unfairness of this policy to the colony is at once apparent. If protection can be justified at all it ought to be adopted in reference to local industries. Most of the articles imported by Cochinchina from China and other Asiatic countries are produced to a greater or less extent within the colony, and by protection certain industries might no doubt be promoted, but of course under the usual penalty of damage to the prosperity of the country as a whole. To tax the people for the benefit of the manufacturer in France, to virtually extort tribute from them for the benefit of a class that has in no way contributed to the building up of the colony, is a very different and wholly indefensible proceeding. This, however, is the policy indicated by M. RICHARD, a portion of whose speech we reproduce in another column.

Concurrently with the decline in its trade caused by the imposition of crushing customs dues, Saigon has been called upon to contribute an annual sum of eleven million francs to the expenses of governing Tonquin. As the two countries have now been united under one Government this is perhaps not unreasonable. Tonquin was not acquired entirely for its own sake, but as an accessory to Cochinchina, and the latter might, if it had been in a position, have been called upon to contribute the whole of the cost, just as the cost of the acquisition of Burma was thrown on the Indian budget. Cochinchina, however, was not in the happy position of being able to afford the whole cost, the subsidy of even the eleven million francs having thrown her finances into disorder. M. RICHARD says:—

"Our financial situation, without this subvention, would be very satisfactory, and notwithstanding some passing difficulties, we could face the future with confidence. But, if, on the contrary, the present situation should be perpetuated, the gravest complications are to be apprehended, and, although I do not wish to be too pessimistic, the partial ruin of the country might be the consequence. The richest agricultural countries, if the incomes derived from their products are not spent in those countries, are inevitably condemned to misery, as witness the case of Ireland, which, notwithstanding the fertility of its soil, supports only a miserable population, because the landlords spend in London or on the Continent the rents of their estates. This would be our condition in the future. The subvention of eleven millions demanded of us represents a third of our budget, and, one may say, eats up all our savings." M. RICHARD therefore recommends the floating of a Tonquin loan of one hundred million francs, to meet the initial expenses of the establishment of the Government and for the opening up of means of communication and the execution of public works, the interest and sinking fund being guaranteed by Cochinchina. The annual expenses of the loan until its termination would be five or six million francs, and it is anticipated that Tonquin, requiring in the meantime no further subvention, will, in a few years, be able to bear part of the interest charge. The Governor-General is a firm believer in the future of Tonquin. In the interior of the country there are vast tracts of fertile land lying waste, owing to the disturbed state of the country before it was brought under French rule, and a considerable development of agriculture may be looked for. But it is to its mineral wealth that M. RICHARD chiefly looks as the source of the future prosperity of the country. Already, he says, the Coal Mining Company has commenced work, and it is expected that in two months it will be able to place the output of its mines on the market. The concessionary of the silver mines at Cao-bang will commence work shortly. Several gold and copper mines were before the war worked by Chinese and natives, and although very primitive methods were employed, gave good results. Many applications to renew the work of these mines, as well as of the recently discovered deposit of antimony, have been received. Lastly, says M. RICHARD, the valley of the K- River is the shortest route by which to reach Yunnan and Kwangsi, and offers a source of immense profits on the part of the route. The route is, no doubt, a valuable one, but it has not been sufficiently proved, we think, that its value has been considerably over-rated, as, although short, it is not very practicable, and it serves only a limited section of the two provinces named. It is, however, not a matter to be overlooked in estimating the elements of progress in Tonquin, and we do not think M. RICHARD's forecast of a prosperous future for the country over-looked, provided that a consistent policy be substituted for the hitherto frequent changes which have been taken place not only in the personnel but the methods of government. Last year a regular force for Tonquin was made up for the first time, the local revenue being estimated at 15,000,000 francs and M. RICHARD anticipates that next year the receipts will reach a total of 20,000,000 francs, and that the increase will be progressive. His anticipations we consider are justified by what has taken place in Cochinchina, where the revenue, which in 1885 was only 8,012,000 francs, is now 29,782,940 francs.

## RUSSIA AND KOREA.

The most interesting point touched upon in the interview between Mr. DENNY and the representative of the *North China Daily News* is that of the alleged Russian intrigues

in Korea. Our contemporary, in a brief article, refers to Mr. DENNY's statement as explicit, but this description seems to us very far from deserved. Either Mr. DENNY spoke with considerable reserve or he is not so fully in the confidence of the King as from his position as His Majesty's adviser might be expected. "What do you think of the Russian intrigues in the Capital, will they amount to much?" asked the reporter. "I do not believe very much in them," replied Mr. DENNY. "I do not for a moment imagine that Russia would undertake the responsibility of establishing a protectorate over Korea, and incur the enmity of China. Russia is all for constituting China for the purpose of developing overland trade. Besides, the difficulty of governing a people like Koreans, with little or no sympathy with Western methods, would be enormous, and every order would have to be enforced at the point of the bayonet perhaps. Such a move would at once turn the eyes of the Koreans with regret and longing towards China, from which the conduct of YUAN just now is calculated to turn them away. I know that a few years ago a desperate attempt was made to bring about such a consummation, but it did not succeed. Indeed, we mention that in 1887 an officer removed one of the few remaining stone breakwaters and in the following year the breach at Hsing-tee occurred. Considering for the sake of argument, that the system recommended by the Commissioner is the best that could be adopted in the circumstances, the substantial construction of the work is of no less importance than correct theory. The Chinese, though they have had unvalued experience in river works, have not profited by it to gain a thorough knowledge of the subject; the whole engineering talent of the Empire would be found incapable of conceiving or carrying out a successful issue works such as those on the river Tsin, a section of which was declared completed the other day by the Right Hon. W. H. SMITH.

It appears that the Yellow River breach is now thirty changed in width (say 350 feet), having been reduced from 550 changed, and Mr. WEST-WEAVER, a member of the former Commission, in a report to the Throne on the condition of the works, takes credit to him, and his colleagues for what has been accomplished. According to the *Chinese Times* "Abstract of Peking Gazette" the report "is really a vindication of the action taken by Mr. HUNG-SIEN, Li Ho-nin, and himself in suspending operation until after the Autumn freshets." As the only remaining member of the River Commission as originally constituted, he reminds the Throne that under its regime the break was reduced from 550 changed to about 300 in width, and that the postponement of the work was necessitated by the approach of the freshets. A similar postponement for two months took place in former years in repairing the great breach at Obong-nout. On that occasion nearly half of the total work was swept away during the interval, while in the present instance the repairs have not suffered in any way by the delay, though the scour through the opening has at times been tremendous." That the credit is taken to himself and his colleagues for the substantial nature of the work already accomplished—at a cost, it may be remarked, several times in excess of its real value—is due, is most sincerely to be hoped. But the memorandum can hardly be ignorant of the fact that the operation of closing the breach will become increasingly difficult as the two ends of the embankment approach each other; and that it is in effecting the final juncture that failure is most to be feared. If, however, the scheme of turning the stream into its old channel by the digging of a canal prove successful, the closing of the breach will be a comparatively simple matter, but, so far as we can gather from a second report by Mr. WEST-WEAVER, devoted specially to this branch of the subject, there appears to be a good deal of business on the all important question of levees.

## THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND THE CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ORDINANCES.

A Bill has just been introduced into the Legislative Council of the Straits Settlements providing for the protection of women and children. From the statement of objects and reasons attached to the Bill we learn that it has been prepared under the instructions of the Secretary of State, and has been approved by him. Its principal object is to repeal what are known as the Contagious Diseases Ordinances, and to substitute for them provisions strictly confined to the purpose of protecting Asiatic women from oppression and brutality. It is considered that European women are able to take care of themselves. The Bill consolidates and extends the existing law for the protection of women and children, and the provisions as to the care of rescued females are such an exceptional nature that it is proposed the part of the Ordinance dealing with this branch of the subject should continue in force for two years only, or such further period or periods as may from time to time be fixed by resolution of the Legislative Council. Provision is made in Part III. for requiring all brothels occupied by Asiatic women to be registered, and non-registration is made an offence punishable with six months' imprisonment. But such registration will not operate as a licence to carry on such business; for although a registered brothel will not be infallible as a public nuisance, unless conducted in such a way as to occasion an actual nuisance, all civil remedies are expressly reserved to all persons who are injured in any way by the existence of the brothel. It is probable that a similar Bill will shortly be introduced in this Colony, as the Colonial Office now encourages and promotes uniformity of legislation as far as possible in all colonies similarly circumstanced. Some time ago the Contagious Diseases Ordinance was suspended as regards the compulsory examination of registered women, but the same has been suspended again, for the continuance of Russian policy is proverbial. With her enormous territory in Siberia, Russia is by the very force of circumstances compelled to seek the extension of her Asiatic seaboard southwards, and the ultimate annexation of Korea will be prevented only, if at all, by the resistance of an equal or stronger power. In a few years more it will be possible to move troops by rail from European Russia to Vladivostok, and when that time arrives, if not before, Russia will assuredly seek an extended coast line.

## THE YELLOW RIVER.

In a memorial to the Throne on the Yellow River the Ta-chung remonstrates by saying that doctors in prescribing for a disease are always careful in the first place to ascertain its cause, and sick people in taking medicine ought to see that the prescription suits the particular nature of their complaint. Perhaps Wu considers himself a competent river doctor, if we may use the term, but we know what his qualifications are. It would at all events, in such a serious case as that of the Yellow River, be well to call in other experts for consultation. The control of rivers is a well understood branch of engineering science in Western countries, while in China it is in a most rudimentary stage. Wu goes on to say: "Past experience forms a sure guide for

future conduct. Since the Memorialist entered on the duties of his present office, he has been day after day on the river banks engaged in making enquiries from the old people in the country as to the condition of things in the past, and has tested their statements by comparing them with historical records. He has thus become convinced that the trouble with the Yellow River in Honan, far from being incapable of remedy, is really due to the want of a proper method of treatment. The present system of raising embankments and protecting them with fascines is not a far-sighted policy, and what is really wanted is the construction of breakwaters to divert the current and save the embankments from being worn away, by keeping the volume of the water in the main channel of the River." Wu's opinion that the disaster is not incapable of remedy may afford temporary comfort at Peking, but as the breakwater system has been tried and has proved ineffectual in the past the prospect of its success on this occasion is not so bright as could be wished. Possibly the breakwater system may be theoretically the best, and its former failure may be due to neglect of the necessary repairs. The Act in question is the protection of vice is continued. The object of the Act in England was the protection of slaves, in the Eastern colonies they have a double object, the protection of slaves and the protection of the women engaged in brothels. If the recognition is justifiable in pursuit of the latter object, it is less justifiable on the grounds of public health? The Act has been opposed on the ground that the examination to which they subjected women was morally indefensible, and it has also been argued that they did not bring about a diminution of disease, statistics (very misleading ones) being adduced in support of the latter contention. The basis of the opposition was, however, the objection to the state-recognition of vice. In the Bill introduced in the House of Commons there is a clause which requires that the State shall not be liable to damages in respect of the protection of slaves, and this clause has been retained in the Bill introduced in the House of Commons. The Attorney-General says:—

"We can conceive of no war or reason for such an unsupported allegation. The United States began with a customs union, and every inhabitant was brought up to the notion of free internal trade, and yet the Southern States were almost as much galled by the Southern theory of protection as by the New England crusade against slavery. In other words, a country which began with the watchword of union experienced the greatest difficulty in inducing the southern districts to submit to the protectionist policy of the manufacturing towns, which would have been the result if the States had started with border duties and a bitter war of tariffs?" It is true that local protection was overcome in Germany, but the result was due largely to the sheer force of Prussia, and still more largely to the pressure of foreign nations. It was not until the divisions of the Germans had become a scandal that the local states parted with their privileges, and even then they gave them up under constraint. It is just as probable that Australia will fall into the condition of South America as that it will emulate the great union of the north. We can only anticipate that the separation of the colonies will increase. In the first place, the exclusive tariffs will promote separate local interests, and will provoke bitterness and retaliation."

It is further argued that vested interests will spring up under local tariffs which no Government, however anxious, will be able to ignore. Sir HENRY PARKES, the Premier of New South Wales, in an eloquent address he delivered recently on "Some possibilities of Australia's future" said that it was impossible for people to unite in one great body if laws were made by each other which would tax the stock or the cereals sent from another colony across their borders, and he alluded to the proposals of some of the colonies to tax food and animal products for human consumption as nothing less than revolts of barbarism. In another column we report a report of the address, which will be found well worth perusal. With such a magnificent country as Australia, unwise fiscal legislation cannot prevent though it may and must retard progress.

## LAWS REVISION.

The object of the Law Revision Commission is to gather into one Act the provisions relating to any particular subject that may now be found scattered through a number of Ordinances, so that the law may be accessible in a compact form. Very considerable progress has been made in the preparation of the law relating to emigration, and the Colony is much indebted to the gentlemen who have performed it. It would seem, however, that the value of what is done by the Law Revision Committee may be somewhat diminished if the principle advanced in connection with the Chinese Emigration Consolidation Ordinance is followed. That Ordinance gathers together all existing provisions of law relating to emigration, and is an excellent measure, but the opportunity of including it in certain cases and amending and consolidating it is intended to be given to the Law Revision Committee. The Chinese Emigration Consolidation Ordinance is followed. 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reserve, were upon one or two personal points, and with great fluency of speech and earnestness. The first part of the conversation was in a large measure made up of a justification of his pamphlet, which Mr. Denby said he was forced to write to explain his attitude towards the Chinese resident Yuan, and to place the outside world in possession of the writer's own views and intentions concerning the Korean Government. Mr. Denby expressed himself very forcibly upon the subject of Yuan's inaction and attitude towards an independent King, who, although a tributary of the Emperor of China, is, said he, and never has been a vassal of this empire. "But my chief wish in the lung which I have taken," said the King's Advisor, "is to preserve the good feeling between Korea and China, which have always existed since the present time, and have now only been interrupted by the unfortunate and unbearable conduct of the Representative Yuan." Mr. Denby laid great emphasis upon the fact that his position towards China notwithstanding his championing the cause of the "Horned Kingdom" was as cordial and friendly as ever, while his feelings towards the Treaty of China were quite the reverse, as before the present standing of the relations between the two countries. Proceeding further into the subject of the natural connection between China and Korea Mr. Denby's language was even more unmistakable, and he spoke of the close bond of intimacy which had, during the past, drawn the two countries together, Korea having drawn largely upon China for her laws, religion, manners, and customs, while the symbols of the two countries are the same, the language of Korea being recognisably the same *phrasal* as has been in operation in China for nearly a thousand years. But, pursued Mr. Denby, "although everything points to the closest intimacy and friendliness between China and her peninsular neighbour, who it is true has signed a tributary treaty with the Emperor, China has hardly right to claim under international law or usage that Korea, which has so zealously preserved, and will, I hope, be able to preserve her independence and freedom from interference in her domestic as well as international policy, by her more powerful neighbour." In proof of this assertion Mr. Denby referred to the several treaties which Korea has concluded with European powers, and with the United States, in which it was expressed that the colony was to be treated as an independent state. "I am sorry to say," said Mr. Denby, "that in her struggle with the tyrannical and violent Chinese Representative at Seoul, Korea has had her motives misconstrued, and her position *vis à vis* China misinterpreted by the foreign press in China and Japan. Mr. Denby, as a case in point, referred to erroneous and misleading statements in the *Chinese Times* that a treaty of vasallage was concluded between Korea and China in 1867. "Now this is erroneous," said Mr. Denby. "The treaty in which the writer endeavours to place Korea in a false position, was concluded in 1868 with a prince in open rebellion against the then ruling dynasty; and under no rule of international law that I have ever read, can it be construed into a treaty of vasallage to China. It was ten years anterior to the wresting of the Chippas from the Tycoon, and the language of the document of this treaty was concluded with a Meiji prince. Japan might well claim Korea as a vassal state, because Korea was some couple of hundred years ago in the habit of sending tribute to the Tycoon. Nor has there ever been, since 1868, any treaty made with China by any possibility of reasoning could be twisted into a treaty of Korea's vasallage."

In reply to a question as to the genuine cause for the despatch of embassies to foreign Courts by Korea, Mr. Denby said the King had full powers, as he had to make foreign treaties, to send Ministers abroad, but when it reached the ears of Yuan that such a step was about to be taken he instantly set himself against it, and endeavoured to frighten the King by threats, and by every means in his power, to bring him what, as an independent sovereign, he had a perfectly right to do, as I have endeavoured to do now, to the King. But the obstructive and threatening action of Yuan had only the effect of confirming the King in his determination to send his representatives to Western Courts."

"What do you think of the Russian intrigue in the Capital, will they amount to much?" the reporter asked. "I do not believe very much in them, but I cannot imagine that Russia would undertake the responsibility of establishing a protectorate over Korea and the empire of China. Russia is all for conciliating China for the purpose of developing overland trade. Besides the difficulty of governing a people like the Koreans, with little or no sympathy with Western methods, would be enormous. The King would have to be entreated at the point of the gun, and the King would be a slave to the Russian Government. Such a move would at once turn the eyes of the Koreans with regard and longing towards China, from which the conduct of Yuan just now has calculated to turn them away. I know that a few years ago a desperate attempt was made to bring about such a recompence, but it did not succeed, happily both for Korea and Russia. To such a policy I shall always offer my most decided opposition. I think that the King would be as foolish as to be led into such a mistake. What is aimed at is Korea's autonomy, the right for Korea to manage her own affairs at home and abroad, and to develop the natural resources of the country. I have great confidence in the future of Korea. She is naturally a very rich country, but it would be foolish to imagine that all her resources can be exhausted before several years are over. But that there is an era of prosperity for the country, Mr. Denby thought, was clearly shown by the recent Customs returns, although the revenue from the exports so far, has not compared favourably with that from imports. 'The King,' said Mr. Denby, 'is most anxious to see his dominions enriched by foreign trade and intercourse, but until the present political negotiations are disposed of he can do little. On the other hand, the King's right to directing all their efforts to the acquisition of commercial advantages and trade, and by friendly intercourse sought to wipe out the painful recollections on the part of the Koreans, of the last great invasion of their country by one of the Tycoons.'

As to the interior aims in Korea of the Russian Government, Mr. Denby once more expressed himself as a non-believer in a general opinion that the object of the Russian representatives in the Far East is still to extend their territory by the annexation or protectorate of Korea. Mr. Denby went even further in this direction, he gave it as his deliberate opinion that no western power, without the greatest expense, trouble, responsibility and sacrifice of life could obtain a paramount position in Korea. It is thought that the Russian settlement was now established, and the sooner the better, if it would be for all parties. As far as he himself was concerned, what he was striving for was an amicable agreement with China, and a speedy return to the old paths of amity and harmony between the two countries. This, however, was not what the Chinese Representative by any means intended. Your military mission, with the assistance of military education after a fashion, and with an unlimited and unfortunate belief in the creed of force as a panacea for all political ills. His object all along had been to excite and foment disturbance in Seoul, his leading idea being to come in with a Chinese Army and carry everything before him by force of arms. This was what Mr. Denby saw to be the case. The Koreans had no objection to such a course, and his armament was a long way in advance of most of his subjects in progressive ideas, and in anything but the vacillating and weak character which he is often represented to be. Strange as it may seem Mr. Denby does not speak Korean, only a few words—and carries on his business with the King through an interpreter. One thing of importance which was reported to him in the interview was the fact that the proposed treaty between Russia and Korea, which we recently reprinted from a Japanese paper, and of which no confirmation has hitherto transpired, may be regarded as authentic. It was signed a couple of months ago by the President of the Council and Mr. Denby, the Russian Minister of State, and it has not been shown about to be ratified. By this treaty important privileges are given to Russian traders in Korea, but there is no great political significance in that, said Mr. Denby, as all the other powers can claim the same privileges under the favoured nations clause. Mr. Denby is a firm believer in

the surerous wealth of Korea, and believes that when the present state of mining is superseded by better methods of extraction, the amount of gold produced will be enormously increased. An even surer source of wealth he believes also exists in the great timber resources now stored up in Korea, which have not yet been cut down, and in conclusion he expressed himself sanguine of Korea's future prosperity, if she succeeds in getting fair treatment from China, freeing herself from the pernicious influence of the Chinese Representative

#### THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF FRENCH INDO-CHINA ON PROTECTION.

We translate the following extract from the speech of M. Richard, Governor-General of French Indo-China, at the meeting of the session of the Colonial Council at Saigon:—

"You are aware that I have applied to the Minister for, and have secured, a revision of the *tarif général* and that goods which are not produced in France should be admitted duty-free. From the time when this comes into operation we may have a diminution in the customs receipts, but as our trade will benefit this loss will be made up from other sources. I have also arranged that the *tarif général* be kept in operation between the two countries, and the following is the following extract from the speech of M. Richard, Governor-General of French Indo-China, at the meeting of the session of the Colonial Council at Saigon:—

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